

2003

## Employment by Size Class

The Rhode Island economy is characterized by a large number of small companies employing a small number of workers. As of March 2003, there were 31,407 private businesses in the state employing 393,944 workers. Small employers, those with less than twenty employees, represented nearly 90 percent of all employers in the state and employed one quarter (25.6%) of the workforce. Mid-sized companies (20 to 249 employees) employed over 43 percent of the private sector employment and accounted for 10 percent of the firms. During the year, large companies of 250 or more employees generated work for 30.7 percent of Rhode Island's private sector workforce. There are just 589 firms in the state employing 100 or more workers. Together, they employee nearly half (47.0%) of the state's private sector employees. The largest employers, those with 1,000 or more employees, numbered 29 and employed 14.8 percent of Rhode Island's private sector.

The highest concentration of small firms is found in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (98.8%) sector, followed by Other Services (95.8%), Construction (95.6%), Professional & Technical Services (94.9%), and Real Estate & Rental & Leasing (93.2%). The Manufacturing sector had the smallest percentage of small firms (75.1%), percent followed by Educational Services (75.7%), and Utilities (79.2%). Of the 589 firms in the state employing 100 or more workers, half were concentrated in Health Care & Social Assistance (140), Manufacturing (124), and Retail Trade (68).

Private Sector Employment				
Size Class	Employers		Employment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total:	31,407	100%	393,944	100%
zero	5,405	17.2%	0	0.0%
1 - 4	14,902	47.4%	29,523	7.5%
5 - 9	4,859	15.5%	32,060	8.1%
10 - 19	2,932	9.3%	39,451	10.0%
20 - 49	2,057	6.5%	62,602	15.9%
50 - 99	663	2.1%	45,427	11.5%
100 - 249	419	1.3%	64,205	16.3%
250 - 499	100	0.3%	33,867	8.6%
500 - 999	41	0.1%	28,568	7.3%
1000+	29	0.1%	58,241	14.8%

The Rhode Island economy experienced very little change over the year evidenced by a net gain of 134 (0.4%) firms and 260 (0.1%) jobs. The largest employer gain (90) was in the number of firms reporting no payroll for March 2003; this increase accounted for two-thirds of the new employers. Employment among firms employing 250 or more workers grew by 424 jobs. Growth was also experienced in the 20-49 category with the addition of 46 firms and 1,520 jobs; the 5-9 size class with the addition of 54 firms and 546 jobs; and the 1-4 size class with the addition of 10 firms and 219 jobs. Negative growth was noted among the 10-19 size class and the 50-99 size class. ***It is important to note that changes in size class data are influenced by the switching of employers from one size class to another as well as by new firms coming into the state.*** For example, the growth experienced in the 5-9 size class is attributed to job losses experienced by employers previously classified in the 10-19 size class.

**Rhode Island Private Employers by Size Class**  
**March 2003**

Major Industry	Firms/ Employees	Total Private	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES									
			0	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1000+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b># of Firms</b>	<b>31,407</b>	<b>5,405</b>	<b>14,902</b>	<b>4,859</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b># of Employees</b>	<b>393,944</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,523</b>	<b>32,060</b>	<b>39,451</b>	<b>62,602</b>	<b>45,427</b>	<b>64,205</b>	<b>33,867</b>	<b>28,568</b>	<b>58,241</b>
Agriculture, Fishing & Hunting	<b># of Firms</b>	161	58	75	19	7	2					
	<b># of Employees</b>	440		156	127	91	*					
Mining	<b># of Firms</b>	21	3	10	3	3	2					
	<b># of Employees</b>	154		20	22	46	*					
Utilities	<b># of Firms</b>	24	3	11	2	3	1	2			2	
	<b># of Employees</b>	1,421		17	*	38	*	*			*	
Construction	<b># of Firms</b>	3,533	921	1,708	498	252	117	23	13	1	0	
	<b># of Employees</b>	17,463		3,504	3,248	3,362	3,454	1,468	2,067	*	0	
Manufacturing	<b># of Firms</b>	2,345	233	770	425	333	321	139	86	24	11	3
	<b># of Employees</b>	60,465		1,737	2,854	4,513	9,780	9,724	12,868	7,803	6,800	4,386
Wholesale Trade	<b># of Firms</b>	2,701	496	1,520	302	191	145	34	12	1		
	<b># of Employees</b>	16,012		2,512	2,002	2,586	4,454	2,306	1,885	*		
Retail Trade	<b># of Firms</b>	3,481	411	1,581	670	390	271	90	45	15	4	4
	<b># of Employees</b>	51,511		3,492	4,494	5,299	8,348	6,155	7,033	5,267	2,757	8,666
Transportation & Warehousing	<b># of Firms</b>	649	141	279	79	63	53	21	10	1	1	1
	<b># of Employees</b>	8,626		512	518	828	1,675	1,371	1,351	*	*	*
Information	<b># of Firms</b>	502	109	230	62	35	36	13	13	1	1	2
	<b># of Employees</b>	8,717		383	406	485	1,090	978	1,994	*	*	*
Finance &	<b># of Firms</b>	1,146	120	606	167	109	78	27	21	8	5	5
	<b># of Employees</b>	29,272		1,211	1,113	1,455	2,307	1,878	3,577	2,666	3,352	11,713
Real Estate & & Leasing	<b># of Firms</b>	946	141	540	132	69	44	11	9			
	<b># of Employees</b>	6,169		1,075	832	903	1,315	710	1,334			
Professional & Technical Services	<b># of Firms</b>	3,428	674	1,902	442	234	137	21	17		1	
	<b># of Employees</b>	18,821		3,471	2,901	3,141	4,156	1,482	2,773		*	
Management of Companies	<b># of Firms</b>	82	19	39	7	4	6	3		2	1	1
	<b># of Employees</b>	4,363		64	43	57	220	229		*	*	*
Administrative & Waste Services	<b># of Firms</b>	1,979	646	766	236	148	101	40	31	9	2	
	<b># of Employees</b>	20,362		1,478	1,520	2,018	3,143	2,817	4,834	3,056	1,496	
Educational Services	<b># of Firms</b>	379	61	153	35	38	58	16	9	3	4	2
	<b># of Employees</b>	16,248		281	224	545	1,830	1,168	1,311	1,148	3,443	*
Health Care & Assistance	<b># of Firms</b>	2,408	106	944	571	331	210	106	104	20	8	8
	<b># of Employees</b>	70,333		2,188	3,731	4,377	6,504	7,210	15,784	6,608	5,511	18,420
Arts, & Recreation	<b># of Firms</b>	520	107	204	95	58	35	13	6	1	1	
	<b># of Employees</b>	5,776		430	644	768	1,141	874	1,010	*	*	
Accommodation & Food Services	<b># of Firms</b>	2,373	339	719	455	392	335	85	33	13		2
	<b># of Employees</b>	37,497		1,688	3,099	5,340	9,965	5,606	4,982	4,675		*
Other services, (except Public )	<b># of Firms</b>	3,042	291	1,821	559	242	98	19	10	1		1
	<b># of Employees</b>	17,521		3,681	3,655	3,225	2,898	1,329	1,402	*		*
Unclassified	<b># of Firms</b>	1,687	526	1,024	100	30	7					
	<b># of Employees</b>	2,773		1,623	609	374	167					